

Ottawa County Gastrointestinal Event—Summer, 2004

Case-Control Study Protocol

Thank you for assisting with this study. We are planning to interview a subset of cases who were on South Bass Island for a single visit during July or August, 2004, and who developed a gastrointestinal illness after their visit. We would also like to interview one or more well travel companions (matched controls) for each case.

We will provide the interview team a spreadsheet with the names, phone numbers, and pre-assigned ID numbers of cases who meet these criteria. Please fill in the appropriate ID numbers at the top of the questionnaire when you begin. Please also record the travel date from the spreadsheet onto the questionnaire in the introductory text section.

Many of the matched controls are household members of the cases. In this instance, please tell the case patient that you would like to interview the control as well, as directed by the prompts in the questionnaire. In other instances, we do not have contact information for the case's well companion, so we will need to ask for this information before the case interview begins. If the case patient declines to provide the contact information, please continue with the interview as this information will still be valuable.

We would like information about very specific exposures that may have occurred weeks ago. Cases and controls may have difficulty remembering where they went and what they did. We will provide you with a reference list of the sites we are interested in, with some of their distinguishing characteristics to help you and the interviewees identify the correct location. Please also tell the interviewee that guesses are welcome (i.e., we would prefer a guess of "yes" or "no" to a "don't know").

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the flow before beginning your first interview.

Thank you again for your help, and feel free to ask questions anytime!